

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 18, 2006. Claims 1 to 6 and 9 to 25 and 28 to 43 remain pending in the application, Claim 1 having been amended herein. Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 9, 10, 20, 21, 25, 28, 29, 41 and 43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over the Screen Dumps (Microsoft Office), and Claims 3 to 5, 11 to 19, 22 to 24, 30 to 40 and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Microsoft Office in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,936,614 (An). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

According to the present invention, an input screen is displayed for inputting a character string and a cursor is designated at a position in the input screen at which the character string is to be inserted. After the position of the cursor is designated in the input screen, a list including a plurality of registered character strings is displayed on the display and the user selects a user desired character string from the plurality of character strings displayed in the list. In response to the user's selection of the registered character string, the selected character string is automatically inserted in the input screen at the designated position of the cursor. Thus, the user simply places the cursor at a spot on the screen where they want to input the character string, and then upon selecting a string from the list, the selected string is automatically inserted at the designated position of the cursor.

With specific reference to the claims, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a character processing method, comprising the steps of a first displaying step of

displaying an input screen for inputting a character string on a display, a cursor designating step of designating, in the input screen displayed in the first displaying step, a cursor at a position on the input screen at which the character string is to be input, a second displaying step of, after the position of the cursor is designated in the input screen in the cursor designating step, displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings on the display when a user enters an instruction to display the list, selecting, based on a user instruction, a user desired character string from the plurality of character strings displayed in the list in the second displaying step, and in response to the user's selection of the registered character string in the selecting step, automatically inserting, in the input screen displayed in the first displaying step, the selected user desired character string at the designated position of the cursor designated in the cursor designating step when the user desired character string is selected in the selecting step, wherein the inserted character string is added to image information which is to be sent to a destination.

Claims 20, 41 and 43 are apparatus, computer medium and computer program claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or to suggest the features of the present invention, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or to suggest at least the feature of displaying an input screen for inputting a character string, designating a cursor at a position on the input screen at which the character string is to be input, after the position of the cursor is designated in the input screen, displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings whereby a user selects a string from the list, and in response to the user's selection of the registered character string, automatically inserting the selected string in the input screen at the designated position of the cursor.

The Outlook screen dumps merely depict a process for inserting an email address. In the screen dumps, the user inserts the cursor in a “To” bar of a window for sending a new email message. Once the user has inserted the cursor into the “To” bar, the user can then type in the email address.

As an alternative, if the user has inserted the cursor in the “To” bar, and they want to use an address book to find an addressee, they then click on the “To” button. When the user clicks on the “To” button, the cursor is removed from the “To” bar, and as seen in Fig. 2, an address book is displayed. Once the address book is displayed, the user can click on an address, and to insert the email address into one of the boxes to the right of the address listings, the user then must click on any one of the “To” or “Cc” button in the email message window (see Fig. 3). When the email address is inserted into one of the boxes, the user must then click on the “OK” button to complete the process. When the user clicks on the “OK” button, the email address is inserted in the corresponding “To” or “CC” bar of Fig. 1, as shown in Fig. 5. As for Fig. 4 of the screen dumps, it merely depicts a cursor being inserted into the “To” bar of the email message window, but the process of having a character string (i.e., an email address) entered into the bar is as described above. Thus, it is readily apparent that in the screen dumps, although the user can insert the cursor in the “To” bar of Fig. 1, the address is input based on the foregoing process, which is quite different from the invention. In contrast, in the invention, the cursor remains at the designated position and the registered character string is automatically inserted at the designated position in response to the user selecting the character string. Thus, the present invention is not anticipated by the screen dumps.

An is not seen to add anything to overcome the foregoing deficiencies of the screen dumps. In this regard, An is merely seen to disclose a touch screen keyboard

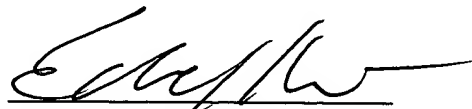
being displayed on a display. However, An is not seen to disclose or to suggest anything that, when combined with the screen dumps, would have resulted in the feature of displaying an input screen for inputting a character string, designating a cursor at a position on the input screen at which the character string is to be input, after the position of the cursor is designated in the input screen, displaying a list including a plurality of registered character strings whereby a user selects a string from the list, and in response to the user's selection of the registered character string, automatically inserting the selected string in the input screen at the designated position of the cursor.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 1, 20, 41 and 43, as well as the claims dependent therefrom, are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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